

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 152

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor Coach Gary Rankin of Riverdale High School upon being named EA Sports National Coach of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those coaches who have performed their duties with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and, through their magnificent exploits, have brought honor to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable coach is Gary Rankin who has recently been named EA Sports National Coach of the Year. He is the second National Coach of the Year from Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a legendary leader, Gary Rankin began coaching at Riverdale High School in 1990, and after an initial season of four wins and six losses, the Riverdale Warriors have annually been ranked both regionally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, providing exciting football for Warrior fans while directing a program that has earned great respect throughout the realm of high school athletics, Coach Rankin has claimed fourteen consecutive league titles and reached the TSSAA Class 5A State Championship game nine times in the past twelve years; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Coach Rankin led the Warriors to a perfect 15-0 season and a TSSAA 5A State Football Championship Title; and

WHEREAS, in his years coaching at with Riverdale High School, he has led the Warriors to an exemplary record of 181 wins and 24 losses, and in 2004, the Warriors football team was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> by the Student Sports FAB 50; and

WHEREAS, he is known throughout the football community of Tennessee and the nation as one of the sport's greatest teachers and coaches, and he has received numerous awards; and

WHEREAS, however impressive his statistics may be, they cannot come close to measuring Gary Rankin's value as a coach; he is an exceptional motivator and mentor, and he teaches the sport as few men can; and

WHEREAS, in his years as the Head Coach of Riverdale High School football, Gary Rankin has elevated the Warriors' program to the pinnacle of Tennessee athletics, and he has done it with a dignity and class that reflect favorably on the reputation of Riverdale football; and

WHEREAS, Coach Rankin has carried out his duties with the utmost acumen, alacrity, diligence, and character, and with an inspirational flair unique only to him; he has earned the respect and admiration of his students and players at Riverdale High School and throughout this State; and

WHEREAS, throughout his outstanding career, Gary Rankin has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate his student-athletes to reach their fullest potential; he exemplifies the unquestioned character and stalwart determination that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate and applaud Head Coach Gary Rankin of Riverdale High School upon being named EA Sports National Coach of the Year and wish him every future success on the gridiron and in life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.